

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /049 W
----- 042340

R 070910Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4264

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: BRIEF LOOK AT PLIGHT OF BLACK WORKERS AS SAG PROCEEDS TO
IMPLEMENT ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1570

1. NOVEMBER 6 RAND DAILY MAIL CARRIED TWO NEWS ITEMS WHICH WERE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN CONTEXT OF SAGS R125 "MINIMUM LIVING LEVEL" (REFTEL) AND STATEMENT IN ANTI-INFLATION MANIFESTO THAT "PRESENT RATE OF INFLATION" POSES "SERIOUS THREAT THE THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL PEACE AND OUR COUNTRY'S EXISTING ECONOMIC SYSTEM."

2. FIRST ITEM STATES THAT MOTOR INDUSTRIES FEDERATION IS NEGOTIATING WAGE INCREASES WITH "TRADE UNIONS AND THE BANTU WAGE BOARD" OF UP TO 20 PERCENT FOR ABOUT 100,000 BLACKS IN INDUSTRY WHICH WOULD RAISE WEEKLY WAGE OF LOWEST PAID WORKERS FROM 16.10 TO R19.32*

3. SECOND ITEM OBSERVES THAT, WHILE AVERAGE MONTHLY PAY OF 400,000 BLACK MINE WORKERS INCREASED BY R28 BETWEEN JUNE 1974 AND JUNE, 1975, I.E. FROM R47 TO R75, AVERAGE MONTHLY PAY OF 36,000 WHITE MINE WORKERS INCREASED DURING SAME PERIOD BY R66, I.E. FROM R581 TO R647*

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4. COMMENT: IF R125 HAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE AT ALL AS REALISTIC
POVERTY LINE AT TIME WHEN SAG ADMITTING INFLATION POSES
"SERIOUS THREAT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL PEACE" FIGURES IN
THESE TWO NEWS ITEMS SPEAK VERY ELOQUENTLY FOR THEMSELVES.
DEGRACE

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Message Attributes

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